

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, claims 9-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter; claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,081,206 (Kielland); claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,370,209 B1 (Zeller et al.); claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,400,943 B1 (Montoya); and claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,771 (Vandivier, III).

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18, and 19.

Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 9-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2ND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejected claims 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. In response, Applicant has replaced the language “an e-commerce environment” with the language “the Internet.” Support for this amendment is found on page 1, lines 10-11 in which the Internet is given as an example of an “e-commerce environment.” The Internet is defined as “an interconnected system of networks that connects computers around the world via the TCP/IP protocol.” *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*. Since the allegedly indefinite language has been replaced with a well-defined term, Applicant

respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 require the claim(s) to be anticipated by a single reference. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that each of the cited references fails to expressly or inherently show each and every element of the claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of each of these rejections for the following reasons.

A. KIELLAND

Kielland discloses a parking regulation enforcement system in which a camera is used for identifying vehicles parked in regulated parking spaces. An image is taken of each vehicle and is stamped with the particular time and location. The image is preferably processed to determine a license plate number of the vehicle. When multiple images reveal that a particular vehicle has been in the same location beyond the allotted time period, the system flags the vehicle and a ticket or appropriate charge can be issued.

With respect to claims 1-24, Kielland fails to show retrieving time information from a global positioning system. In sharp contrast, Kielland teaches retrieving time information “from the computer’s internal clock.” Col. 7, lines 8-9; col. 8, line 66-col. 9, line 2; col. 13, lines 30-32. Since at least this aspect of the claimed invention is absent from Kielland, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

With further respect to claims 1-24, Kielland fails to show the use of an “object identifier” that includes time and location information from a GPS. Since this aspect of the claimed invention is also absent from Kielland, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

The identifier for each vehicle (e.g., object of the present invention) in Kielland is typically “the alphanumeric text appearing on the vehicle’s license plate.” Col. 7, lines 3-5. An alternative form of identification comprises the captured image itself. Along with the unique identifier, the time and location are added to create an “Epoch-ID.” The Epoch-ID is a record of a particular vehicle, at a particular location, and at a particular time. The Epoch-ID does not serve to uniquely identify the vehicle or the record of the vehicle, rather it *is* the *record* of an *observed* attribute of the object (e.g., its location at a particular time, or epoch). Col. 12, lines 26-30 (“[t]hese three observed data... are concatenated and stored as a data record”). A record (i.e., “Epoch-ID”) is identified and retrieved using the stored license plate number and/or image. Therefore, the license plate number and/or image serves as the unique identifier of Kielland, neither of which includes time and location information obtained from a GPS system.

This is in contrast to the claimed invention in which the time and location information is included in the “object identifier” itself. That is, the object identifier “includes the provided

location and time information.” In fact, the Kielland system cannot use the claimed invention since it would not be possible to match two records when time and location information are included in the identifier. Since the time and location can never match for two observations of a parked vehicle, two records of a vehicle observed twice would never be matched. This fact is exploited by the current invention to ensure the uniqueness of each object identifier. However, Kielland must use the vehicle license plate or alternative data regarding the physical appearance of the vehicle to determine whether there exists a vehicle match before referring to the time and location data in the “Epoch-Id.” Since Kielland’s identifier does not include time and location information and since Kielland’s system could not use an identifier that includes time and location information, Applicant respectfully submits that Kielland does not anticipate the claimed invention.

With further respect to claims 1-24, even if, *arguendo*, Kielland does show the use of an object identifier that includes location and time information, Applicant respectfully submits that Kielland fails to disclose the use of such an object identifier to identify an electronic purchase, a login event, or a computer hardware device as claimed. Kielland discloses the use of location and time information in conjunction with assessing a charge based on an amount of time a vehicle has been at a particular location. This is unrelated to the current invention, which provides for a globally unique identifier for objects related to a computing environment.

As a result, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 as allegedly being anticipated by Kielland.

B. ZELLER ET AL.

Zeller et al. discloses a method for detecting a manipulation of digital information. Zeller et al. discloses subdividing digital information for a particular video into information subunits. Col. 2, lines 55-66. The information subunits are small enough to make statistical correlation of errors highly improbable. After generating the information subunits, “an auxiliary identification... [that] can be time information or location information” can be assigned to each subunit. Col. 3; lines 61-62. This information can then be used to determine whether the associated digital information has been manipulated. For example, digital information for a video can be subdivided into information subunits, encoded, and transmitted to a receiver. During transmission, some errors may be randomly introduced into the digital information, or the digital information may be manipulated. While the receiver is decoding the digital information, errors may be detected in one or more information subunits. The subunits in which errors are detected are then compared. When subunits having errors are correlated by time and location, the system determines that the data in these subunits were potentially manipulated.

With respect to claims 1-24, Zeller et al. fails to show retrieving time information from a global positioning system. In sharp contrast, Zeller et al. teaches retrieving time information “from an internal clock of a video camera.” Col. 3, line 62-Col. 4, line 6. Since at least this aspect of the claimed invention is absent from Zeller et al., Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

With further respect to claims 1-24, Zeller et al. fails to show use of time and location information to generate a unique identifier. Since this aspect of the claimed invention is also absent from Zeller et al., Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Zeller et al. addresses the problem of determining whether digital information has been manipulated since it was originally created. Zeller et al. does not address the problem of generating a unique identifier for objects. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Zeller et al. do not apply to the claimed invention.

Regardless, to solve the problem of determining whether digital information was manipulated, Zeller et al. uses the identical time and location information for many information subunits. For example, each frame of a video is subdivided into 6336 frame subareas. Col. 4, lines 20-29. Each of these subareas are then assigned the identical time and location stamp since they all were generated at the same time. Zeller et al. exploits this fact to determine whether “errors” in the data may have been purposeful manipulations. When “errors” are detected, Zeller et al. uses the time and location information to determine if there exists a correlation of time and location in the changed data.

In sharp contrast, the claimed invention solves the problem of assuring that object identifiers are unique across a global computing environment by using time and location information. To do this, the claimed invention uses time and location information to help assure the uniqueness of identifiers.

With further respect to claims 1-24, even if, *arguendo*, Zeller et al. does show the use of an object identifier that includes location and time information, Applicant respectfully submits that Zeller et al. fails to disclose the use of such an object identifier to identify an electronic purchase, a login event, or a computer hardware device as claimed. Zeller et al. discloses the use of location and time information in conjunction with determining whether digital data may have been manipulated. This is unrelated to the current invention, which provides for a globally

unique identifier for an electronic purchase, a login event, or a computer hardware device. The current invention does not address any concern with potential manipulation of these items, rather it seeks to generate unique identifiers for the objects.

As a result, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 as allegedly being anticipated by Zeller et al.

C. MONTOKA

Montoya discloses a mobile network that tracks the locations of the various mobile units. Each mobile unit determines its location and reports it to the mobile network which stores and retrieves the information when needed. For example, each mobile unit includes an identification code to uniquely identify the mobile unit. Col. 4, lines 50-51. A location code is determined and sent along with the identification code to the mobile network. Col. 4, lines 46-52. The mobile network stores the identification code and corresponding location code in a database. When the mobile network needs to communicate with a particular mobile unit, it uses the identification code to determine the corresponding location code stored in the database and routes the communications appropriately. Col. 5, lines 12-17.

With respect to claims 1-24, Montoya fails to show the use of an “object identifier” that includes time and location information from a GPS. Since at least this aspect of the claimed invention is absent from Montoya, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

The identification code of a mobile unit serves a purpose similar to the “object identifier” of the current invention. However, the identification code does not include any geographic or time information encoded within it. In fact, the identification code is used to look up this

information with respect to the particular mobile unit. Since Montoya's identification code does not include "time and location information" as is claimed, Applicant respectfully submits that Montoya does not anticipate the claimed invention.

With further respect to claims 1-18, even if, *arguendo*, Montoya does show the use of an object identifier that includes location and time information, Applicant respectfully submits that Montoya fails to disclose the use of such an object identifier to identify an electronic purchase or a login event as claimed. Montoya discloses the use of location and time information in conjunction with communicating with mobile units. This is unrelated to the current invention, which provides for a globally unique identifier for objects related to electronic purchases and/or login events.

As a result, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 as allegedly being anticipated by Montoya.

D. VANDIVIER, III

Vandivier, III discloses a method of tracking natural resources in a resource allocation system. The method provides for the ability to track the position of a resource as it proceeds through each allocation step in the system. Col. 7, lines 21-30. In such a system, a workstation may be not be in communication with a server. As a result, when new data associated with an allocation step is entered into the system, date, time, offset number, etc. are used to ensure a unique ID for the data. Col. 6, lines 38-53.

A uniquely identified tag is placed on each carrier to identify the particular resource throughout the allocation process. Col. 14, lines 9-15. When data is generated for each resource,

the particular tag identification associates the data with the correct resource. Col. 7, lines 39-43.

The tag acts “as an effective electronic packing slip.” Col. 8, line 3.

With respect to claims 1-24, Vandivier, III fails to show retrieving time information from a global positioning system. In sharp contrast, Vandivier, III teaches that a user inputs the current date, time information into a workstation. Col. 9, lines 23-25. Since at least this aspect of the claimed invention is absent from Vandivier, III, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

With further respect to claims 1-24, Vandivier, III fails to show the use of an “object identifier” that includes time and location information from a GPS. Since this aspect of the claimed invention is also absent from Vandivier, III, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Vandivier, III discloses generating unique identification numbers for “the data collection of the allocation progress” using time and location information. Col. 6, lines 40-47. However, for the resource itself, Vandivier, III discloses using a uniquely identified tag attached to a container holding the resource. The data collected for a particular resource is tied together using the tag identifier. The identifier for the tag does not include date and time information.

This contrasts with the claimed invention, in which date and time information is used to uniquely identify an object itself. Any data to be stored about an object in the present invention would use the unique identifier that includes date and time information. This identifier is generated once for each object in the present invention, and does not change as the object is moved, or additional data is retrieved.

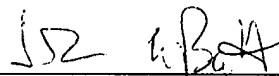
With further respect to claims 1-24, even if, *arguendo*, Vandivier, III does show the use of an object identifier that includes location and time information, Applicant respectfully submits that Vandivier, III fails to disclose the use of such an object identifier to identify an electronic purchase, a login event, or a computer hardware device as claimed. Vandivier, III discloses the use of location and time information in conjunction with storing data associated with a resource (i.e., coal) in an allocation chain. This is unrelated to the current invention, which provides for a globally unique identifier for an electronic purchase, a login event, or a computer hardware device.

As a result, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-24 as allegedly being anticipated by Vandivier, III.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW THE CHANGES MADE

1 1. (Amended) A system for assigning object identifiers, comprising:
2 a global positioning system (GPS) receiver for providing location and time information;
3 an identification generator that generates [an] a unique identifier, wherein the identifier
4 includes the provided location and time information in an encoded format; and
5 a system for assigning the identifier to an object located proximate the GPS receiver,
6 wherein the object comprises an electronic purchase.

1 6. (Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for assigning object identifiers,
2 the program product comprising:
3 means for receiving location and time information from a global positioning system
4 (GPS) receiver;

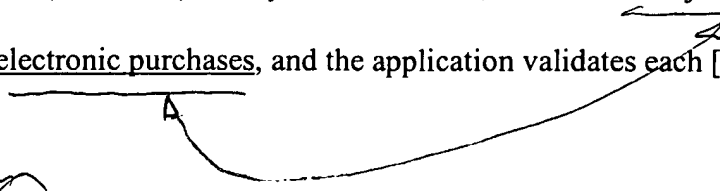
5 means for generating [an] a unique identifier, wherein the identifier includes the received
6 location and time information in an encoded format; and
7 means for outputting the identifier in a format suitable for tagging an object located
8 proximate the GPS receiver, wherein the object comprises a login event.

1 7. (Amended) The program product of claim 6, further comprising means for processing
2 simultaneous login events that occur at a common location.

1 9. (Amended) A system for processing object identifiers in [an e-commerce environment] the
2 Internet, comprising:
3 a database for holding objects;
4 at least one identification system for providing unique identifiers for objects, wherein the
5 identification system obtains location and time information from a global positioning system
6 (GPS) and encodes the location and time information into each unique identifier; and
7 an application for processing the objects, wherein the application includes a system for
8 processing the unique identifier, and wherein the objects comprise one of computer hardware
9 devices, login events, and electronic purchases.

1 12. (Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the objects comprise login events and the time
2 checking system compares a time difference between login events.

1 18. (Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the objects comprise [limited use transactions]
2 electronic purchases, and the application validates each [transaction] electronic purchase.



1 19. (Amended) A method of generating object identifiers, comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining time and location information from a global positioning system (GPS);
3 generating a unique identifier from the time and location information, wherein the time
4 and location information is encoded into the unique identifier; and
5 associating the unique identifier with an object, wherein the object comprises a computer
6 hardware device.